

USDA Assistance for New and Beginning Farmers

What Assistance is Available?

- Short-term contracts to assist farmers and/or land-owners with applying practices such as conservation tillage, buffers, nutrient management, animal waste storage, barnyards, and more than 100 other practices.
- Technical assistance to help farmers carry out the practices
- Practice payments to reduce the cost to the farm operation

What is the Advantage for New and Beginning Farmers?

- High payment rate
- Advance practice payments of up to 30% for materials for construction, when work can begin immediately

How do I know if I Qualify as a Farmer?

- The applicant or the operator must be an agricultural producer engaged in the production of livestock or other agricultural products and must have produced at least \$1,000 annually on the applicant's farming operation
- Owners of farms who are not the operator may apply

How do I Know if I Qualify as a New and Beginning Farmer?

- New and beginning farmers are those who have not had a farming enterprise continuously for the past 10 years
- If a farmer has filed a Schedule F with their federal income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years, the farmer is not considered new or beginning

- All partners in the operation must meet the new and beginning farmer criteria

What Farmers May Not Qualify?

- Farmers who only board horses or only have horses for pleasure
- Farmers who have had a previous EQIP contract cancelled based on a lack of adequate performance

How Does a Farmer Apply?

- Contact a local USDA NRCS office at www.nrcs.usda.gov under Find a Service Center
- Request a conservation plan
- Complete an application for one of the cost share or incentive programs

When Does a Farmer Apply?

- All programs have a continuous sign up
- Contracts are awarded until funding is gone



www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

**For Spanish language assistance
call 1-866-232-0690**